

### REMARKS

Applicant has canceled claim 1 and claim 9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claim 1 and claim 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Also, claim 1 and claim 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In view of Applicant's cancellation of claim 1 and claim 9, Applicant submits that the above rejections are moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that claim 4 and claim 5 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Applicant has amended claim 4 and claim 5 and rewritten each claim in independent form as suggested. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 10-13 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan S. Jackson  
Registration No. 41, 302  
Kennedy Covington Lobdell & Hickman, L.L.P.  
Hearst Tower, 47<sup>th</sup> Floor  
214 North Tryon Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
(704) 331-7410